Wiedemann, H.P., Mahler, D.A., Loke, J., Virgulto, J.A., Snyder, P., Matthay, R.A. "Acute Effects of Passive Smoking on Lung Function and Airway Reactivity in Asthmatic Subjects" Chest 89: 180-185, 1986.

ABSTRACT. We studied the acute effects of one hour of passive cigarette smoking on the lung function and airway reactivity of nine young adult asthmatic volunteers. At the time of this study, the subjects were asymtomatic and had normal or nearly normal lung function. Passive smoking produced no change in expiratory flow rates. However, there was a small decrease in nonspecific bronchial reactivity, as assessed by methacholine inhalation challenge testing ($p=0.022$). Pharmacologically active substances present in cigarette smoke, such as nicotine, may explain the observed change in airway reactivity. Although the finding of decreased airway reactivity might suggest that passive smoking produces a "protective" effect on the underlying asthma, the observed change in reactivity was slight and of uncertain clinical significance. We conclude that passive smoking presents no acute respiratory risk to young asymptomatic asthmatic patients.

2023379556

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